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29 April 1962

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TO: [REDACTED] Chairman  
DD/I Review Panel for IR/OCR

SUBJECT: Questionnaire on the Extent of DD/I Use of IR Sources.

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1. I think you may be interested in two thoughts that occurred to me as I filled out your Committee's Questionnaire on the IR:

a. The Questionnaire is focussed almost exclusively on the reactions of those who use the IR directly, i.e., for research in which they are themselves engaged. It invites the reactions of supervisors only to the extent that they use the IR in their own research work. Most of our supervisors, at the level of branch chief and above, have little occasion to use the IR themselves, but they are very much interested in the efficiency of the IR as a support unit. I am sure that these supervisors have many worth while thoughts on the manner in which the IR has supported research by persons under their direction. The Questionnaire makes no effort to obtain the judgments of this important segment of the community.

b. It should also be pointed out that the Questionnaire fails to separate the respondents into those concerned with information about individual industrial installations and those whose work is not ordinarily related to such installations. In my estimation this omission is unfortunate. Such a distinction would have made it possible to explore with the former group the extent to which they rely for this information on the IR, personal files, branch files, the library, or related facilities, together with their reasons for using other resources than the IR. The failure to explore these subjects in the Questionnaire introduces an element of ambiguity which could seriously impair the validity of the survey unless the Committee takes these factors into consideration in the preparation of its report.

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